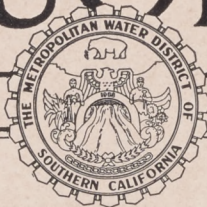


# • COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XX

APRIL, 1953

No. 4

## Need For Protecting Water Rights Stressed

Southern California's number one water job continues to be the protection of its established rights on the Colorado River, Board Chairman Joseph Jensen warned early this month in a talk before the Water and Power Resources Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

"Before we allow ourselves to become too deeply involved in elaborate and costly new water development projects," Chairman Jensen said, "let us find out more about the cost of these proposals, and meantime let us devote our energies to protecting our Colorado River water supplies for which we already have made tremendous investments."

Engineers of the Metropolitan Water District are now engaged in a systematic study of water supplies that may be tapped by Southern California in the years ahead when additional millions in population have reached the limits of this area's Colorado River water resources, Mr. Jensen said. When such new water sources are needed, Mr. Jensen stated, the huge District system will be equipped to bring this supplemental water into Southern California economically and without the burdensome cost to the people of a duplicating supply system.

Chairman Jensen pointed out that the aqueduct system of the Metropolitan Water District has been built and is being extended in a manner that will provide adequate facilities to meet the needs of this Southern California area in the years ahead.

Chairman Jensen drew attention to the fact that the District, which is supplying 48 incorporated cities with Colorado River water, now includes 75 per cent of the population and assessed valuation of the five Southern California counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego. This

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District officials, members of a Directors party that recently completed an inspection tour of San Diego County areas, are shown above on the site of a portion of the San Diego Second Barrel project now under construction near Rainbow. Left to right: Director Fred A. Heilbron, General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, Chairman Joseph Jensen and Vice-Chairman Warren W. Butler.

## District's Board of Directors Make Three Day Inspection Survey of San Diego County Areas

In the course of a study of several annexation proposals that have been submitted, a tour of San Diego County was made late last month by members of the District's Board of Directors, officials and staff members.

The party, which was organized and conducted by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, and headed by Board Chairman Joseph Jensen, left Los Angeles Friday afternoon, March 28, for Carlsbad.

On the following day the party in-

spected the Fallbrook, San Luis Rey Heights, Rainbow, Vista, Bonsall and Poway areas before proceeding to San Diego where they were the guests of the San Diego County Water Authority for dinner at the Cuyamaca Club.

Sunday the party visited areas in a number of irrigation districts south of San Diego before returning to Los Angeles.

Directors making the trip were Chairman Joseph Jensen, A. H. Allen, Robert

(Continued on Page Three)



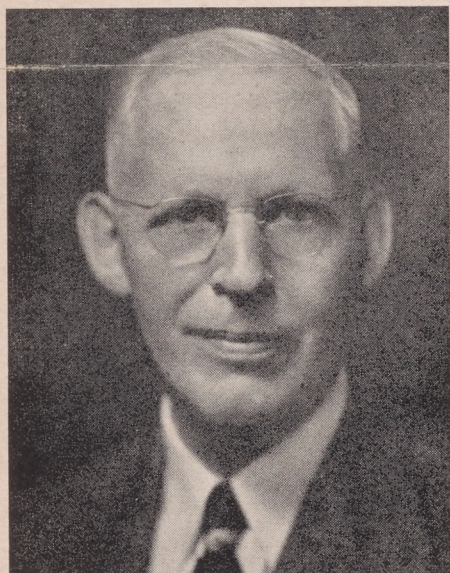
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306 WEST THIRD STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

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JOSEPH L. BURKHOLDER

## Joseph L. Burkholder Is Claimed By Death

Joseph L. Burkholder, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the San Diego County Water Authority and a Director on the District's Board, representing the Authority, died April 6 following a short illness. He was a distinguished District veteran of the aqueduct construction period.

Mr. Burkholder, who was 68 at the time of his death, spent a lifetime in reclamation and water development projects.

He attended the University of Kansas and was for some years with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. He joined the District December 26, 1932 as General Superintendent of Construction. In June, 1933 he was made Assistant General Manager and was in charge of the District's field operation on the main aqueduct during the major part of the construction period.

After resigning from his office with

## Board Awards Contract For Middle Feeder Link

A \$3,238,245 contract calling for the construction of the last link in the Garvey-Victoria feeder was awarded April 14 by the Board of Directors to P. & J. Artukovich, Inc.

The Garvey-Victoria feeder, part of the District's current \$52,000,000 expansion program, takes off from the District's Garvey Reservoir in Monterey Park. From this location it will run southerly through Montebello, South Gate and Compton into the Long Beach area.

This aqueduct extension link calls for approximately 7.76 miles of pipeline construction beginning at Southern Avenue and Garfield Avenue in the City of South Gate extending southerly and westerly to a point in unincorporated territory approximately one mile easterly of Wilmington Avenue and Victoria Street.

## Richard S. Holmgren Assumes New Duties

Richard S. Holmgren was appointed General Manager and Chief Engineer of the San Diego County Water Authority April 16 by the Authority's Board of Directors, to succeed the late Joseph L. Burkholder.

Mr. Holmgren was responsible for the planning of a number of water supply systems in New England, and from 1935 to 1942 he served as Chief Engineer of the New Hampshire Water Resources Board.

He joined the San Diego County Water Authority in April, 1945 as General Manager and Chief Engineer.

the District in November, 1938, Mr. Burkholder for several years was engaged in engineering and survey work with the U.S. International Boundary Commission. In January, 1945, he was retained as General Manager and Chief Engineer of the San Diego County Water Authority, which had been organized the previous year. Shortly thereafter, he was named as one of the two M.W.D. Directors from the Authority.

Mr. Burkholder is survived by his widow, Mrs. Rebecca Moody Burkholder, four daughters and a son.

A testimonial in memory of Mr. Burkholder, prepared in parchment and signed by all of his colleagues on the Board of Directors, has been presented to Mrs. Burkholder.

## For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed April, 1953, covering District operations for March, 1953.)

**Colorado River** — The water level in Lake Mead during March dropped 4.71 feet to elevation 1152.42 feet on March 31, 1953, which was 18.43 feet higher than on March 31, 1952. Usable storage was 17,764,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 554,000 acre-feet for the month. At Hoover Dam the discharge averaged 16,700 cubic feet per second compared with 18,600 in February 1953. At Lake Havasu the water level varied but slightly between elevation 447.1 feet and 448.0 feet. Average discharge at Parker Dam was 15,300 cfs compared with 18,300 in February 1953.

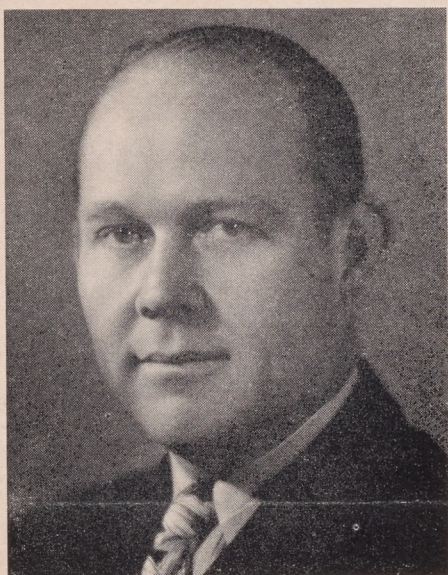
**Power and Pumping System** — Pumping was continuous with a one-pump output until March 12 when a second pump was placed in operation. Two-unit pumping at a 400 cfs rate continued to the end of the month. Peak delivery of power to the Edison Company system was 143,000 kw. There was no delivery to the Parker system.

**Distribution System** — San Jacinto reservoir contained 1186 acre-feet of water at month's end. Lake Mathews contained 86,957 acre-feet, a gain for the month of 202 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from a hardness of 301 to 125 ppm at an average rate of 113.2 cfs.

**Construction** — On the Garvey-Ascot cross feeder, 3,860 linear feet of 60-inch concrete pipe was cast, for a total to date of 25,460 feet, 86 per cent of the contract quantity; and 3,560 feet was installed for a total of 15,700 feet or 53 per cent of the contract quantity. At Caljaco tunnel 777 feet was excavated, for a total to date of 2,937 feet or 39 per cent of the required length. At Garvey reservoir on the middle feeder 200,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in March for a total to date of 660,000 cubic yards, 20 per cent of the required quantity. Construction of the 36-inch diameter, 1.5-mile long concrete pipe line from Corona del Mar reservoir to Coast Boulevard was started March 23. A total of 537 linear feet of pipe was installed during the month, or 7 per cent of the contract quantity. Work on the northerly half of the San Diego Aqueduct by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation was continued.

**Purchasing** — In March 348 purchase orders and 3 agreements were issued, amounting to approximately \$32,000.





DIRECTOR GUS A. WALKER

## Gus A. Walker Marks Ten Years As Director

Director Gus A. Walker, one of the two directors representing the City of Long Beach, on April 28 completed 10 years of service on the District's Board of Directors.

In presenting a 10-year service pin to Director Walker, Board Chairman Joseph Jensen called attention to the valuable service rendered by Director Walker since he became a member of the Board in 1943.

Director Walker is currently serving on the District's Legal and Claims, the Financial and Insurance, and the Water Problems and Public Relations Committees. He is President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Long Beach.

## Protect Water Rights

(Continued from Page One)

proportion of people and assessed valuation will be increased to about 90 per cent, he pointed out, when areas now in process of annexation have been consolidated with the MWD.

"The heavy preponderance of Southern California population and taxable property now within the Metropolitan Water District places a grave responsibility upon our District organization to maintain both an adequate and economical water supply system for this area," said Mr. Jensen.

"An overlapping water supply system would place an intolerable cost burden upon the very people who have shouldered the financial obligation of planning and building a great water supply project to meet this area's needs for years to come."

## State Board Criticizes Water Supply Juggling

The California State Colorado River Board this month sharply criticized proposals to spend billions of dollars for the purpose of juggling water supplies in western streams.

The Board said that the costly scheme for interchanging water supplies as outlined by former Interior Secretary Oscar L. Chapman in his United States Western Investigation interim report has been submitted to California agencies for comment. According to the Board, the plan would involve "a colossal waste of taxpayers' money and would dry up the Colorado River aqueduct that is the life-line of Southern California."

The Federal plan rejected by the Board would substitute water from northern sources, such as the Klamath River, for the present aqueduct supplies brought from the Owens and Colorado rivers for Los Angeles and 47 other Southern California cities. The water now supplying the two aqueduct systems then would be made available to Arizona and to other portions of California.

"More than four million people in Southern California cities are now being supported mainly by the Owens River and the Colorado River aqueduct water supplies," Chairman of the Board Fred W. Simpson said. "Our people have invested more than 300 million dollars in their aqueduct systems, and of course we have no intention of abandoning those essential works."

"The entire amount of the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River water supply — 1,212,000 acre-feet annually — is essential to meet the needs of domestic, industrial and municipal water supplies in the coastal plain region of Southern California served by the District. If at some future time additional water supplies can be brought in from northern sources, such import water will be needed over and above our Colorado River water in order to meet future demands that additional developments and population growth will require."

Simpson said that no water official connected with the largest water systems of Southern California favors the UWI plan. State Engineer A. D. Admonston is being informed of the views of local water authorities, with a request to transmit the official Board comments to Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay. The UWI plan was drawn up under the direction of former Interior Secretary Chapman and released by him in the final weeks of his administration.



CHAIRMAN JOSEPH JENSEN

## Chairman Jensen Gets Ten-Year Service Pin

In recognition of his decade of public service as a member of the District's Board of Directors, Chairman Joseph Jensen on March 10 was presented with a 10-year service pin by Vice Chairman Warren W. Butler.

In making the presentation Vice Chairman Butler referred to the substantial contributions Chairman Jensen has made in helping to formulate and put into effect the policies of the Board during the years he has served as a Director and later as Chairman.

Mr. Jensen is one of seven Directors representing Los Angeles. He was first elected Chairman of the Board in January 1949 and was unanimously re-elected in January of this year. He is Chief Petroleum Engineer of the Tidewater Associated Oil Co.

## Directors Tour

(Continued from Page One)

E. Austin, Warren W. Butler, Glenn P. Allen, Samuel J. Crawford, Fred A. Heilbron, Lloyd C. Leedom, Morris S. Jones, Herman Nelson, Hugh W. Stiles, Ben Haggott, Irwin E. Farrar, James L. Norwood, D. W. Pontius, A. C. Reynolds and George W. Stevens.

District staff members who accompanied the party were, in addition to General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, Assistant Chief Engineer, Robert A. Skinner; Assistant General Counsel, Charles C. Cooper; Controller, A. W. McKinlay; Office Engineer, H. V. Crawshaw; Assistant to the General Manager Don J. Kinsey and Field Secretary Rufus Fee.



# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



EDWARD A. CLARKE,  
Executive Assistant Controller

## TWENTY YEARS SERVICE

EDWARD A. CLARKE: Joined the District March 27, 1933, as General Clerk. In December 1941, he was made Bookkeeper and in April 1942, was appointed Accountant. In July 1948, he was named Chief Accountant and in April 1952, was appointed Executive Assistant Controller.

CHESTER G. OLSON: First employed March 7, 1933, as General Clerk. In October 1938, he was made Assistant Treasurer and in May 1942, was made an Accountant. He was appointed Chief Accountant in April 1952.

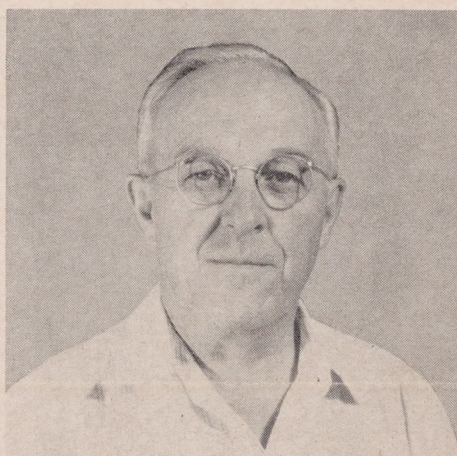
HAROLD R. CHURCH: First employed April 3, 1933 as a Rodman. In June 1948, he was made an Inspector and in January 1952, was made Chief of Party.



CHESTER G. OLSON, Chief Accountant



ROBERT A. SKINNER, Assistant Chief Engineer



ALVIN E. GEISLER, System Operator

## TWENTY YEARS SERVICE

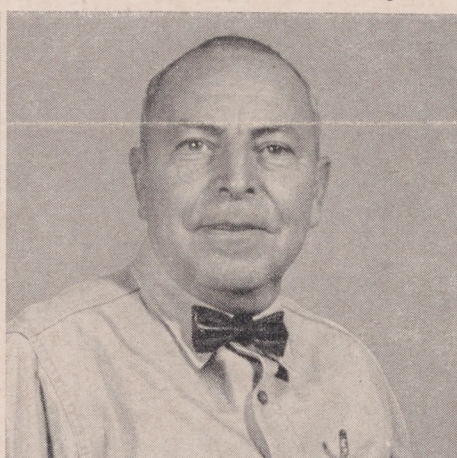
ALVIN E. GEISLER: Joined District in April 21, 1933 as Substation Operator. In October 3, 1938 he was made Pumping Plant Operator and in January, 1944 he was made Station Chief at Iron Mountain. In April, 1948 he was made System Operator.

ROBERT A. SKINNER: Joined the District March 6, 1933 as Assistant Engineer. In August 1941, he was made Office Engineer and in January 1952, he was appointed Assistant Chief Engineer.

RUFUS S. FEE: Joined the District April 21, 1933 and upon his return from military service in 1945 he took up his present duties as Field Secretary.



HAROLD R. CHURCH, Chief of Party



JOHN L. POWELL, Mechanical Foreman



RUFUS S. FEE, Field Secretary

Marjorie (Marge) Megica Anderson, Accounting Division, leaves in May to make her home in Roseburg, Oregon. Ray Sargent, Maintenance Mechanic at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant also leaves in May for his home in Thompson Falls, Montana.

## TWENTY YEARS SERVICE

JOHN L. POWELL: In the course of his employment from March 15, 1933 to October 1, 1951, he was an Aqueduct Patrolman and Maintenance Mechanic. On July 1, 1952, he was made Mechanical Foreman.

Give up girls! Handsome Rudolph (Rudy) Fernandez, Junior Draftsman, and a good man on a saxophone, is, according to the latest rumors, planning on getting married in the very near future. It is reported that Rudy might even play at his own wedding.